

Passaic River CAG Activities for Review and Comment of Focused Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan on the Lower Eight Mile Cleanup

As of 1/6/13

Planned CAG Outreach Activities

- Review needed fact sheets with EPA, determine which topics CAG will take on
- CAG would like a chance to review EPA fact sheets to help ensure they address key community questions
- Assist with translation support at public meetings
- Review and provide any warranted additions to EPA media list
- Review and provide any warranted additions to EPA list of community groups and local contacts
- Assist in getting the word out about the FFS and public meetings
- Identify and communicate important community reasons to get involved and provide input

Community Information Needed in Fact Sheets/Web Site

- Acronyms and key terms
- Introduction to Superfund and the cleanup process
- Overview of the General Passaic cleanup, history, what the cleanup will and will not address, role of the CPG, how cleanup will be funded
- Overview of sediment contamination
- Description of the cleanup options and pros and cons of the three different choices with a focus on local impacts, clarify why the CPG option is not an EPA option under consideration
- Community involvement on the Passaic, how to get involved
- Good map with lower eight miles identified, overall project mile markers and towns and landmarks, showing roads and satellite image
- All fact sheets need to be accessible and well written, taking into account the low technical literacy of some communities and in appropriate translations

Suggested Format for EPA Public Meetings

- Basic presentation ensure that everyone gets all of the main information, this can be videotaped ahead of time as well for broader distribution
- Open House format to provide an opportunity for education, asking questions, staffed poster sessions
- Formal comment session at the end once opportunity for learning and questions is provided, clearly announce time limits in advance
- Provide opportunities for people to leave comments in other formats, such as on-line stations, comment forms, audio recorders
- Good fact sheets and information for folks to take home and share
- Translators for Spanish and Portuguese

Recommended Locations for possible EPA Public Meetings

- Kearney/Harrison—Kearney library or
- Newark/East Harrison--2 meetings at different times)
- Belleville—possibly Nereid Boat Club

Recommended Enhancements to EPA Public Meetings and Outreach

- Widespread communication and weather-related cancellation process
- Special attention on how to notify river property owners and those most impacted, perhaps postcards to specific addresses
- Provide a webinar or two for folks who can not make it to physical meetings
- Create a video summary of information presented at the public meetings to post on line
- Hold separate briefings for Elected officials as appropriate
- Ensure all local repositories are up to date
- Make direct section on the homepage of ourpassaic.org for the FFS to make it easy to find key information quickly
- Ensure complete list of all media outlets
-

Technical Issues Important to the Community to Provide Meaningful Input

- Time for cleanup implementation, time to full recovery of River and end of fish advisories - in FFS
- Loss of benthic organisms, crabs, fish, what are the impacts and why does this matter – in FFS, briefly (not much on why does this matter)
- Monitoring and long-term stewardship, what will be tracked, how do we provide community assurance – in FFS (not much on how do we provide community assurance – to be determined in Design)
- Restoration opportunities, impacts of the options on timing and effectiveness of different recovery actions including assumptions regarding natural recovery rates – in FFS (but about timing with respect to contaminant levels going down, not timing of restoration)
- Ability to synchronize natural resource restoration plans with the cleanup activities – not in FFS
- Potential impacts on flooding – in FFS
- Potential for recontamination from upstream sources – in FFS
- Assumptions, mitigation, and potential impacts of sediment resuspension – in FFS
- Life-cycle costs and risks, true-long implications of choices that leave significant contamination in place – not sure what this means
- Where will the processing facility go – not in FFS (to be determined in Design), how long will it be there – in FFS, how much land will be required – in FFS—is it temporary or will it become a regional facility – FFS includes costs for demobilization of processing facility when dredged

materials processing is complete

- What sorts of treatment technology will be considered and how will final decisions be made if not articulated in the proposed plan – in Proposed Plan
- How will disposal locations be determined if not articulated in the proposed plan – not in Proposed Plan (to be determined in Design)
- Impacts on the local economy, local jobs, plans for additional Super JTI activity – not in FFS
- Potential economic losses resulting from ongoing contamination – not in FFS
- Water access during construction – impacts described in FFS, but not in detail (to be determined in Design)
- Assumptions, plans and coordination with ship traffic if navigation lanes are dredged, and the overall potential impacts of this deeper dredging – impacts described in FFS, but not in detail (to be determined in Design)
- Assumptions, accuracy and relevant examples regarding dredging rates, and barge/pipeline usage, - in FFS
- Potential impacts on project schedules due to bridge openings and the procedures and laws regarding operation and maintenance of bridges – acknowledged in FFS, but not described in detail (to be determined in Design)
- Human health risk from activities in addition to fish consumption – not in FFS (to be analyzed in 17-mile RI/FS)
- Dredging vs. capping assumptions, long-term implications – in FFS
- Environmental Justice analysis of the disposal options – not in FFS
- Community benefits agreements – not in FFS

Tentative Schedule

January 2014	CAG Meeting 1/9/14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present EPA model and modeling results • COE presentation on restoration plans • Review CAG issues and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review draft FFS, other available materials
February 2014 Early February FFS/PP released?	CAG Meeting 2/20/14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the proposed plan • Identify/discuss areas for CAG in-depth discussion and review • Identify draft set of issues for CAG recommendations • Begin CAG outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review proposed plan, final FFS • Create fact sheet on Alternatives based on the proposed plan • Evaluate life-cycle impacts of alternatives • Work with technical ctte to ID information needs for input
March 2014	CAG Meeting 3/13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive additional explanation based on CAG questions on the proposed plan • Discuss scope and focus of CAG recommendations • Begin draft CAG recommendations • Ongoing outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist CAG in answering key questions raised • Present information to the CAG • Review draft CAG input for technical accuracy
April 2014 End of 60 day comment period	CAG Meeting 4/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive additional explanation based on CAG questions on the proposed plan • Refine draft CAG recommendations • Ongoing outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review draft CAG input for technical accuracy
May 2014 End of 90 day comment period	CAG Meeting 5/8 TBD based on overall schedule and public comment period	TBD